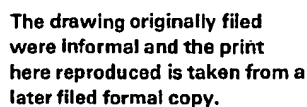


- attached to the circular part (1) to facilitate application of the stencil to the wheel with the spokes (3) aligned with corresponding spokes of the wheel and the annular part (2) shielding a tyre located on the wheel. After application of the stencil to the wheel the wheel is sprayed with paint and the stencil then removed. The inner side of the stencil is smooth to prevent scratching of the wheel and the annular part (2) may have a radial dimension in the range 10 cm to 11.5 cm. Depressions 6 may be provided to accommodate the wheel nuts.



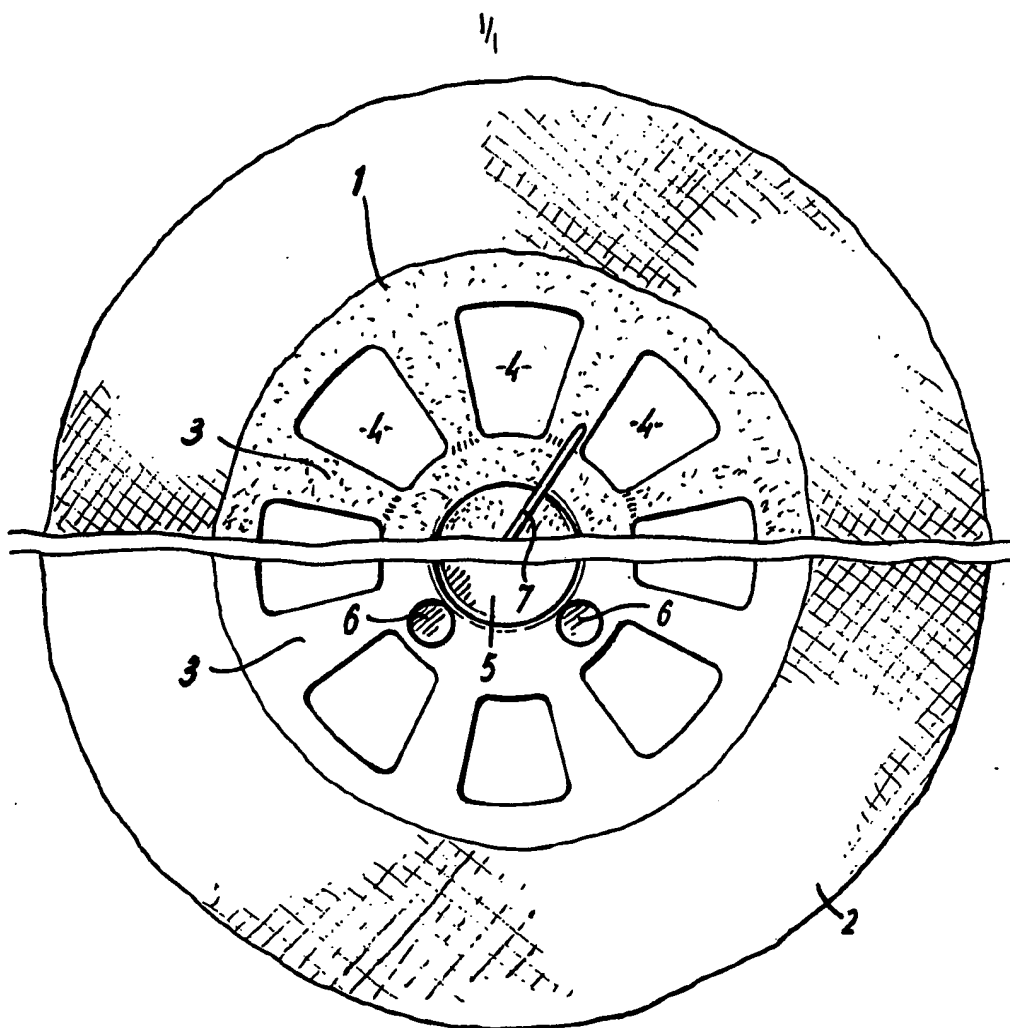


FIG. 1

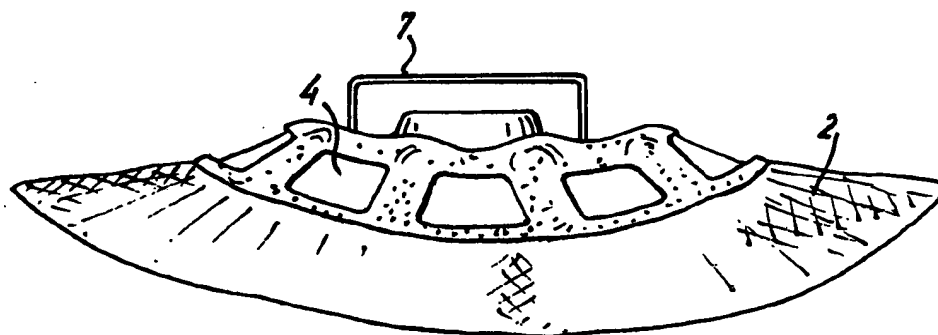


FIG. 2

SPECIFICATION

Sports wheel stencil mask

The present invention relates to a stencil for use in the renovation of wheels, particularly, but not exclusively sports wheels for saloon cars having a plurality of segments separated by a plurality of radially extending spokes.

At the present time, such wheels are renovated using a brush, care being exercised to see that paint, which is wholly matt black, is not accidentally applied either to the pneumatic tyre or to the, usually silver painted, radially extending spokes. This procedure is both time-consuming and expensive.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stencil for use in the renovation of wheels comprising an inner circular part defining a plurality of spaced apertures separating radially extending spokes and an annular part surrounding the circular part.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of renovating a sports wheel of a vehicle comprising the steps of applying to the wheel a stencil having an inner circular part defining a plurality of spaced apertures separating radially extending spokes and an annular part surrounding the circular part with the spokes of the stencil aligned with corresponding spokes of the wheel, spraying the wheel with paint and subsequently removing the stencil.

In a preferred embodiment, the annular part of the stencil is made of vinyl or canvas and the inner circular part is moulded from synthetic plastics material such as glass fibre reinforced plastics material. A handle is provided on the outer face of the stencil to facilitate its application to the wheel to be renovated. The inner face is smoothed off to reduce the risk of the stencil scratching the wheel to which it is applied.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood one embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Fig. 1 shows a partial plan and underplan view of a stencil for the renovation of a spoke wheel; and

Fig. 2 shows a side view of the stencil of Fig. 1. Referring to Fig. 1, there is provided a spoke wheel stencil made of glass fibre material. The upper part of the Figure shows a plan view of half of the stencil and the lower part of the Figure an underplan view of the other half of the stencil. The plan view is of the outer side in use and the underplan view of the inner side, that is the side adjacent the wheel, in use. The stencil comprises an inner circular part 1 and a surrounding annular part 2. The inner part 1 is moulded to fit the sports road wheel on which it is to be used from glass fibre and comprises a plurality of radially extending spokes 3 separating a plurality of segmental apertures 4. The inner side (lower half of Fig. 1) is smooth to avoid any damage to the

sports wheel over which it is to be fixed in use, for example, by scratching and the outer side (upper half of the drawing) is left rough. The inner side is also formed to accommodate the hubs 5 of the wheel including the studs and associated nuts 6.

Surrounding the inner circular part 1 is the outer annular part 2 comprising a skirt made of vinyl or canvas. This skirt is flexible, about 10 cm to 11.5 cm wide and protects pneumatic tyre on the wheel from the accidental application of paint. To facilitate application of the stencil to the wheel, a wire handle 7 is fixed to the outer side.

In use, the stencil is simply fitted over the wheel with the spokes of the stencil aligned with the actual spokes of the wheel and the skirt extending over the pneumatic tyre. The wheel is then sprayed with paint in a normal spraying operation and the stencil subsequently removed. This method of renovation is generally better, faster and more economical than the conventional method, it being estimated that the time taken to complete a given job is reduced by over 60% as compared with the conventional method.

It will be appreciated that the above described embodiment has been described by way of example only and that many variations are possible without departing from the scope of the invention. For example, the number spacing and extent of the apertures in the central inner circular part can be altered at will. Furthermore, the width and material of the various parts can also be altered as desired.

CLAIMS

1. A stencil for use in the renovation of wheels, comprising an inner circular part defining a plurality of spaced apertures separating radially extending spokes and an annular part surrounding the circular part.

2. A stencil according to claim 1, wherein said annular part is of a flexible material.

3. A stencil according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said circular part is of a rigid material.

4. A stencil according to claim 3, wherein a handle is attached to said circular part.

5. A stencil according to claim 4, wherein said handle is formed of wire.

6. A stencil according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein said circular part is moulded from a synthetic plastics material.

7. A stencil according to claim 6, wherein said circular part is of a glass fibre reinforced plastics material.

8. A stencil according to claim 2, wherein said annular part comprises a sheet of vinyl material.

9. A stencil according to claim 2, wherein said annular part comprises a sheet of canvas material.

10. A stencil according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said annular part has a radial dimension in the range 10 cm to 11.5 cm.

11. A stencil according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the side thereof which in use contacts said wheel is smooth relative to the opposite side thereof.

12. A stencil according to any one of the

preceding claims, wherein the annular part is secured to the circular part by adhesive.

5 13. A stencil substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

10 14. A method of renovating a sports wheel of a vehicle comprising the steps of applying to the wheel a stencil having an inner annular circular part defining a plurality of spaced apertures separating radially extending spokes and an annular part surrounding the circular part with the spokes of the stencil aligned with corresponding

spokes of the wheel, spraying the wheel with paint and subsequently removing the stencil.

15 15. A method according to claim 14 comprising shielding by means of said annular part a tyre located on said wheel.

20 16. A method according to claim 14 or claim 15, wherein said stencil is applied to the wheel by holding a handle provided on the circular part of said stencil.

17. A method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference and as illustrated in the accompanying drawing.

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